OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6457

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPLAY OF THE STATE OR

NATIONAL FLAG AT HALF-STAFF.

SUMMARY:

This bill conforms state law to federal law by authorizing the governor to issue a proclamation ordering the national flag to be flown

at half-staff following the death of a (1) present or former principal figure of state government or (2) member of the armed forces who is

from Connecticut and dies in the line of duty.

The bill also authorizes the governor to issue a proclamation

ordering that the state flag alone be flown at half-staff following the

death of a state official or celebrity.

After the governor issues either type of proclamation, the bill

requires all state government buildings and offices, public schools, and military bases to fly the national and state flags in accordance with the

order.

Current law requires the governor to order that the national flag be

flown at half-staff after he orders that the state flag be flown at half-

staff following the death of an armed forces member who dies in the

line of duty.

The bill defines "armed forces" as the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine

Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, or any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard. The bill does not define

"principal figure of state government" or "state official or celebrity."

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

The federal Flag Code codifies rules and customs for the display and care of the U.S. flag. Among other things, the code authorizes U.S. governors to issue proclamations ordering that the national flag be flown at half-staff following the death of a (1) present or former state government official or (2) state armed forces member who dies in the line of duty. After a governor issues such a proclamation, each federal installation or facility should fly its national flag at half-staff. No state or local flag may be flown higher than the national flag, so when the national flag is flown at half-staff, so should state and local flags (4 U.S.C. § 7).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/07/2013)